

46. (Original) A method as defined in claim 45, wherein said equivalent detergent is CPC or CPB at a concentration of at least about 0.5%.

47. (Original) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said acid is mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.1 % or any acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.

48. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein both said acid and bactericide are is mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.1 % or any acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.

49. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said ~~salt or~~ acid is ~~an~~ EDTA ~~salt or acid~~ which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.25 % or any ~~salt or~~ acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.

50. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said ~~salt or~~ acid is ~~an~~ EDTA ~~salt or acid~~ which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.25 % or any ~~salt or~~ acid having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto at a suitable working pH value.

51. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said ~~salt or~~ acid is ~~sodium mandelate or~~ mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration range of at least about 0.1 % at a working pH value. ~~or any salt having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto.~~

52. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein both bactericide and said ~~salt or~~ acid is are ~~sodium mandelate or~~ mandelic acid which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration range of at least about 0.1 % at a working pH value. ~~or any salt having a biofilm dislodging potency substantially equivalent thereto.~~

53. (Original) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said acid is one or more of mandelic, 2-ketoglutaric, acetic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, lactic, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic, oxalic, citric, oxamic, malic, dichloroacetic, phenylacetic, benzylic, maleic, mandelic, succinic, chloromandelic, glutamic, nitrilotriacetic, boric, adipic, formic, glucuronic, salicylic, benzoic, benzoyl formic, phthalic, ketopimelic acids, alanine, serine, tryptophane, tyrosine, bicine, tricine and glycine.

54. (Original) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said acid is one or more of mandelic, 2-ketoglutaric, acetic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, lactic, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic, oxalic, citric, oxamic, malic, dichloroacetic, phenylacetic, benzylic, maleic, mandelic, succinic, chloromandelic, glutamic, nitrilotriacetic, boric, adipic, formic, glucuronic, salicylic, benzoic, benzoyl formic, phthalic, ketopimelic acids, alanine, serine, tryptophane, tyrosine, bicine, tricine and glycine.

55. (Original) A method as defined in claim 42, wherein said bactericide is hydrogen peroxide or any bactericide having a bactericidal potency and host spectrum substantially equivalent thereto.

56. (Original) A method as defined in claim 55, wherein said equivalent bactericide is mandelic acid, phenol, sodium hypochlorite, CPC or CPB.

57. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 56, wherein mandelic acid or salt, phenol, sodium hypochlorite, CPC or CPB achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least 0.1%, 0.1%, 0.5%, 0.1% and 0.1 %, respectively.

58. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 41, ~~which~~ wherein said composition further comprises a biofilm dislodging enhancer agent.

59. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 42, ~~which~~ wherein said composition further comprises a biofilm dislodging enhancer agent.

60. (Original) A method as defined in claim 58, wherein said enhancer agent is a calcium chelator.

61. (Original) A method as defined in claim 59, wherein said enhancer agent is a calcium chelator.

62. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 60, wherein both said calcium chelator and acid are is EDTA ~~in an acid or salt form~~ which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.25 % or any calcium chelator having a chelating potency substantially equivalent thereto.

63. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 61, wherein both said calcium chelator and acid are is EDTA ~~in an acid or salt form~~ which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.25 % or any calcium chelator having a chelating potency substantially equivalent thereto.

64. (Original) A method as defined claim 58 wherein said enhancer agent is a chaotropic agent.

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65. (Original) A method as defined claim 59 wherein said enhancer agent is a chaotropic agent.

66. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 64, wherein both said chaotropic agent and detergent are is SDS which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.1 % or any chaotropic agent having a chaotropic potency substantially equivalent thereto.

67. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 65, wherein both said chaotropic agent and detergent are is SDS which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.1 % or any chaotropic agent having a chaotropic potency substantially equivalent thereto.

68. (Currently amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which comprises an effective dislodging amount of a detergent and an effective dislodging amount of ~~an acid or a salt of an a~~ salt-forming acid; said detergent being selected from sodium dodecyl sulfate, sodium n-decyl diphenylether disulfonate, sodium cocoyl sarcosinate, polyoxyethylene sorbitan monolaureate, cetylpyridinium bromide and cetylpyridinium chloride; said acid being selected from the group

consisting of mandelic, 2-ketoglutaric, acetic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, lactic, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic, oxalic, citric, oxamic, malic, dichloroacetic, phenylacetic, benzylic, maleic, succinic, chloromandelic, glutamic, nitrilotriacetic, boric, adipic, formic, glucuronic, salicylic, benzoic, benzoyl formic, phthalic, ketopimelic, ethylenediamine tetraacetic, N-(hydroxyethyl) ethylenediamine triacetic acids, alanine, serine, tryptophane, tyrosine, bicine, tricine and glycine, with the proviso that said composition is neither a mixture achieving a final concentration of about 1% to about 2% SDS 1%—2% and about 1% EDTA 1%, of about 1% to about 2% SDS 1%—2% and mandelic and lactic acids, each at an individual concentration of about 1% or in a combined concentration of about 2%, of about 0.25% SDS 0.25%, about 2% sodium benzoate 2% and about 0.2% sodium salicylate 0.2%, nor a mixture of about 0.1 to about 0.3% SDS or SDDD, about 0.1 to about 0.3% SCS or SLS, about 0.1% zinc sulfate, acetate, nitrate or gluconate salts and about 0.1 - 0.3% HEEDTA, EDTA or DTPA, all percentages representing final weight per volume concentrations, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.

B/ 69. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 68, wherein said composition further comprising a bactericide selected from mandelic acid, phenol, sodium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide, CPC and CPB.

70. (Currently amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.1% but less than about 1% SDS, at least about 0.1% but less than about 1% salt-forming acid or a salt of an acid and at least about 0.25% but less than about 1% EDTA, said acid being selected one or more of 2-ketoglutaric, mandelic, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, L-aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic acids and DL-alanine, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.

71. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 70, wherein said composition further comprising comprises an effective bactericidal amount of a bactericide.

72. (Currently amended) A method for removing a biofilm from a surface comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which achieves, once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, a concentration of at least about 0.1% SDS, at least about 0.1% ~~acid or a salt of an~~ salt-forming acid, and at least about 0.25% EDTA, said acid being one

or more of 2-ketoglutaric, iminodiacetic, mucic, glycolic, fumaric, aspartic, phosphoric, pyruvic, chloroacetic acids and alanine, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.

73. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 72, wherein said composition further ~~comprising~~ comprises an bactericidal effective amount of a bactericide.

74. (Original) A method as defined in claim 71, wherein said bactericide is hydrogen peroxide at a final concentration of about 5%, or phenol at concentration of at least about 0.1%, or sodium hypochlorite at concentration of at least about 0.5%, or CPC or CPB at concentration of at least about 0.5%.

75. (Original) A method as defined in claim 73, wherein said bactericide is hydrogen peroxide at a final concentration of about 5%, or phenol at concentration of at least about 0.1%, or sodium hypochlorite at concentration of at least about 0.5%, or CPC or CPB at concentration of at least about 0.5%.

B1 76. (Currently amended) A method comprising the step of contacting said surface with a composition, which once reconstituted in an aqueous solution, achieves a final concentration of at least about 0.5% CPC or CPB, about 1% EDTA, about 1% ~~an acid or a salt of an salt-forming~~ acid selected from mandelic, glycolic, fumaric, citric and phosphoric acids or a mixture thereof, and a buffering agent to achieve a pH of about 7.5 or higher, for a time sufficient to dislodge said biofilm.

77. (Original) A method as defined in claim 41 wherein said composition achieves a final concentration of SDS 0.25%, sodium benzoate 2% and sodium salicylate 0.2%.

78. (Original) A method as defined in claim 41 wherein said composition achieves a final concentration of 0.1 - 0.3% SDS or SDDD, 0.1 - 0.3% SCS or SLS, 0.1% zinc sulfate, acetate, nitrate or gluconate salts and 0.1 - 0.3% HEEDTA, EDTA or DTPA.

79. (Currently amended) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said time is at least ~~about~~ one hour.

80. (Original) A method as defined in claim 41, wherein said time is comprised between about 1 and about 18 hours.